

# COUNTYWIDE TRUNKED RADIO SYSTEM

**UPDATE - April, 2002**

## **Advisory Council reps confirmed; Council slated to meet**

Charter Member representatives to the Trunked System Advisory Council have been appointed. The Council is expected to meet for the first time during the week of May 6th. Agenda items will include:

- Non-charter member agreements
- Affiliate (non-member) user agreements
- Radio usage reporting issue update
- Action on base user cost share on number of individual radio transmissions, or on total usage time by each user

Under the Trunked Radio Services Agreement, the Advisory Council will serve as an advisory body to the County Executive and the County Board on all matters affecting the trunked radio system, shall review the budget prepared for the trunked radio system, will hear and mediate disputes among municipalities who participate in the radio system and will approve additional members who wish to be added to the system.

## **Members able to directly purchase radios**

The trunked system is now out of the "initial acquisition" phase and, per the Trunked Radio Services Agreement (TRSA), members are permitted to purchase mobile and portable radios directly from vendors, or may request purchase assistance through the County. Subsequent additional radios are not financed by the County.

Section 1.2 of the TRSA states that after the initial acquisition period, radios purchased must be of a type approved by the County, and must be from a County-approved vendor. These restrictions are important since they ensure hardware compatibility with the system, and to help members avoid unsatisfactory vendors.

While there is no direct system operating cost assessed for additional radios, cost share formula eventually will be based on each member's radio usage; thus, additional radios may affect a member's share of operating costs.

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*The Trunked Radio System Update newsletter is distributed by Waukesha County Radio Services,  
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## **Elm Grove/Bishops Woods improvement work continues**

Site upgrades to the Menomonee Falls tower have been completed. Evans and Associates consultants recommended these changes, which are designed to improve trunked system coverage in Elm Grove and the Bishops Woods area of Brookfield.

Evans was subsequently engaged to conduct detailed field tests of signal strength throughout this area; the study was conducted by dividing these areas into quarter-mile square grids, and taking sample signal measurements within each grid. At the request of the Village of Elm Grove, specific additional test points were also included and evaluated. Village representatives also witnessed the test procedures and methodology. The system's Acceptance Test Plan (ATP) standard was then applied to the field measurements, and the results were compiled and tabulated. A draft version of the report, received April 24, contained the following conclusions:

- Improvement has been recently made within the subject area by increasing power and utilizing a directional antenna at the Menomonee Falls site; however, low-signal areas still exist.
- The tests revealed a result slightly below the ATP's 95% geographic coverage requirement. Some negative effects may be attributable to proximity to the cellular tower at the Elm Grove village garage.

The final report will need to recommend a course of additional field testing in conjunction with users to determine the appropriate course of remedial action.

## **Usage-tracking software ordered**

Motorola radio usage-tracking software supplied with the system was unable to meet the contractual requirements, but the County has required new software, provided by third-party vendor Genesis. This software will summarize usage by either number of transmissions or total air time on a per-user basis, and has been ordered at no additional cost to the project.

Members' eventual operational cost share will be determined by one of these methods as selected by the Advisory Council; data for this report has been accumulated since the trunked system first went online.